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THE
Folly and
OF
Imposthug, &c.



Great Britain & Ireland
THE
FOLLY and VANITY

OF

Impeaching

THE LATE

MINISTRY

CONSIDER'D.



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IT seems very probable that this Proverb, (*Speak Truth and shame the Devil*) tho' I have no Text in Scripture for it; was founded upon the only Instance remaining of the least Sign or Tincture of Virtue in the Arch-Rebel, and fallen Angel, *Lucifer*, viz. That it was possible to shame him by *Speaking Truth*, who was therefore, or for some other Cause, call'd the *Father of Lies*. I cannot tell whether our learned Commentators will approve this Notion in me or no; but to reduce it to a Temporal Argument, I will be oblig'd to find them many Arch-Rebels on this transitory Stage, that shall out-

do the Devil in impenetrable Impudence; nay, that shall out-lie the Devil too, (as Sir Sampson says by his *Black-guard of Lawyers*) and never blush for the Matter.

But I am on a Subject which requires me to be a little more Serious, and will not allow me room to branch out every Head of my Discourse to so great a length. And I am afraid I shall write to Men who have a less Sense of Shame than *Lucifer*, and will not Blush at the horror of their Crimes, nor even at the Disasters they have brought on their Country, by their accumulated Acts of disloyalty to their just and lawful Prince.

If I shall be thought to Blame, by those I would Please, I shall answer by another *English Proverb*, *That Truth may be blamed, but can never be shamed*; and I shall always think I have done God, as well as my *King and Country*, good Service, in exposing with the utmost severity, the many *Grievances and Misfortunes* these poor Kingdoms are reduced to by the Actions of some Men, who never make any thing but *Power* their chief Aim, and to acquire that, forget all Respect to their *lawful Prince*, and regard to the Peace and Safety of their Country. In

In inspecting the Conduct of *These*, it will perhaps be expected that I should look back beyond the Revolution; but I have not room, nor does the Design I am on require it. A Re-trospection of a very few Years, will serve my turn; and I must beg, rather than the Patience of my Readers, (for I shall be very concise) their Justice and Candour so far, that they will not be Angry, and throw the Book out of their Hands, if sometimes they find themselves mistaken in their Guess.

Let us not forget however, that we dethron'd our just and lawful Prince King *James II.* and let us heartily remember too the Reason why we did it, To preserve our Religion and Liberties, then in apparent Danger from Popery, and arbitrary Power. Who were the Men, that claim'd the Honour of joyning most heartily in this Affair, and soonest forgot the Reasons for so doing, when they found the Use and Application of it did not Answer their Purpose; Who they were that engrossed all Power at Home in the late Reign, and made an ill Use of all our Victories Abroad; In fine, Who deserve to be made Examples on for all the Misfortunes which have ac-

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crued,

crued; and why we mayn't say we expect to have a R ———e or two Hanged without so much Noise made about it.

To come the easier therefore to the discussing these Propositions, it will be necessary to bestow half a Page in considering the Reason we had to Depose him who we acknowledged to be our lawful and rightful Prince (*K. James II.*) swore to, and obeyed as such, till the Fear of Popery and Arbitrary Power took Place: And certainly the Reasons must be very apparent, else I cannot but think the Nation would never have plunged it self into those Inconveniences which were like to attend it; and which did indeed really attend it. We were immediately drawn into a dangerous and hazardous War, which cost us many Millions to support; and the only Advantage we could expect, was only to keep that unhappy Prince out whilst we had him out, otherwise to have that imposed upon us by a heavy Hand, which He was bringing about by more gentle and specious Methods. And this I am to observe was no Party Matter; both *Whigs* and *Tories* joined in it, and the latter were always ambitious of having it said, they had the chief or principal Hand in it.

But

But how soon these Men were weary of this Ambition was plain; for they presently hung their Heads, folded their Arms, and look'd Dejected, when they saw they had not that preheminance of Power they expected: They seemed weary of their new Sovereign, tho' he had bestow'd many Favours on them, and gave many Reasons to suppose they would have done as much by him, as they had done by his Predecessor, if possible have found out the Means; which since they could not do, they resolved to make his Reign as uneasie as they could; and never fail'd to find one vexatious Thing or other to perplex him.

From hence sprung up a fresh Spirit of Jacobitism in the Nation; for very few, the Papists, and particular Persons excepted, were endued with these Principles at first; which we might prove easily: In as much as that Prince's Friends, many of them deserted him at the beginning, even his own Children, and became averse to his Government and Person, when they found he would by no Means Govern by Law; so that the Spirit of ANCIENT LOYALTY, as it is call'd, seems rather to have grown to the height it is now in, from
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the Seeds of a discontented Party, than to have been the natural Product of the Country.

By this Time I am conscious the Jacobites will begin to think they have mistaken their Man, and that I shall never make my Title good if I go on at this rate ; but let them be contented a little, I have a Word or two of Comfort for them by and by ; in the mean time, I cannot but think the exposing a Party who gave them so much Reason to depend on them, and now make it their bragg that they never did, or intended to do, the least Thing in favour of them, cannot but be as much Pleasure and Service to them, as they could reasonably expect in the most literal sense of the Title Page.

But I will forbear wasting Time in these Digressions ; I think it needs no proving, that the Loyal *Church Party* had as great a Hand in Deposing their Sovereign as any other, and the great Honour they ascrib'd to themselves on that occasion.

The Death of King *William* was a time of Jubilee to them ; never were Men so elated with the hopes of Power again ; They found themselves gratified,
but

but were very short liv'd in it ; but this I shall come to presently.

To return therefore ; If our Reasons were so very powerful for Dethroning our rightful King, as that we thought it worth while to run all those Hazards I have mention'd to make our Deliverance compleat ; How much does it exaggerate the Villanies of those, who have made some very audacious Attempts to bring us into the same Predicament again ? As if Mountains of Treasure, and Deluges of Blood, were only Articles below the Consideration of such profligate Traytors. To whom the following Lines of Sir J. Denham may be very justly applied.

*Statesmen of old, thought Arms the Way
to Peace,*

*Ours scorn'd such thredbare Policies as
these :*

*All that was given for the States defence,
They thought too little for their own ex-
pence ;*

*Or if from that they any thing could spare,
'Twas to buy Peace ; not to maintain a
War.*

The

The Reader will immediately now determine with himself, I mean by this the late M——y; but I must ask Pardon that I don't explain my self, till I have made out my Allegations; for I would have some Clauses in my Pamphlet, like some Articles in the late Peace; to have the Virtue of executing or explaining themselves.

I have shewn how these Men were very forward in the Act of dethroning their King; yet they soon retracted their Disobedience, and came like very civil Persons soon after to disown the same Principles they had acted by, and to do him all the Service that was privately in their Power: Whilst the *Whigs* were a parcel of Stubborn hardened Fellows, and would never shew the least reluctance, the least signs of Grace or Repentance; not even when their Abdicated Sovereign lay ready with an Army to Invade them, and sent before him his terrible Declaration, enough to frighten any People into Subjection, but such as bear the Denomination of *Whigs*.

I appeal to all King *James's* Friends whether it was not to the *Whigs*, that unfortunate Prince owed all his Misfortunes, and the Nation all its sectirity
from

from Popery and Arbitrary Power. Whether it was not by their Policy and Contrivance, that the Revolution was brought about, and whether their Conduct and Integrity after, did not prevent his being brought in again? Are these Men therefore ever to be forgiven?

But to go farther: Is it not memorable, that at the Death of King *William*, these Men retained their former Spirit, made the same Struggles they had ever done to preserve their Religion and Liberties, and were the same warm Men against Popery and Arbitrary Power? Can it ever be forgot how they work'd themselves into Favour with the late Queen, notwithstanding the Disadvantages they at first laboured under, and threw the Tories wholly out of the Administration?

Did they not begin, Gentlemen, with routing the Armies of your good Friend the *French King*, taking his Towns, and destroying his Fleets? nay, Did they not continue this cursed Practice for Ten Years together, as if Heaven had conspired to make the Nation only Happy and Secure by their Means, and under the Auspices of their Administration?

Did they ever lend the least considerate or pitying Ear to your poor *Chevalier* ; but cruelly procur'd him, by the late Articles of Peace, to be sent out of *France*, and rendered a Vagrant to the World, had not some, who had a little more compassion to him, suffered that Article to bear an Elusion ? And finally, Did they not come at last to set an Ignominious Fine upon his Head, if ever he should set Foot on his Native Shoar ? Oh impious hardened Men !

But to state the Balance on the other Side— Can we ever forget how safe, how glorious some Ten Years Victories had made us ? How unshaken our Credit stood at Home, and how conspicuous our Reputation Abroad ? our very Enemies revered us, and the most distant Nations, shew'd Honour to the Name of a *Briton*. We had reduc'd the common Enemy even to a state of Compassion, and had Power to have exacted such Conditions, as should justly have set us free from all Apprehensions for the Future, and done an impartial Right to all the rest of *Europe*.

This, Gentlemen, you know very well to be Truth, tho' perhaps the Repetition

petition of it may be a little irksome to you. But just in this happy Juncture, whilst Heaven seemed profuse of its Indulgence to us, and for which our manifold Sins no Mortal is able to Account, it pleas'd the Almighty to withdraw his Influence; the Sun shone no more upon us; and a Contagious Darkeness spread it self through the Kingdom. Prepossession and Ignorance sealed up Peoples Eyes, that they cou'd not see the Ruine they were involved in, and the Pestilence is not yet half cured among them.

From the Date of this unfortunate CHANGE, not a single Accident went well for us; our Conquering Armies were now pursued; our Fleets return'd Home shattered and unsuccessful; and our Credit sunk to the lowest Ebb. We were in the Hands of Men, who were unmoved at the Tokens of Providence, and unconcern'd for the good of their Country; Men wholly solicitous of their own Good, and to secure themselves in Power, never stuck at the covering one Crime by the perpetration of a greater, even to the betraying the Queen who had raised them from nothing, and stinging that Bosom which had warmed them into Life. C 2 " By

By whose Advice she was prevail'd upon, contrary to the Grand Alliance, and her repeated Promises to both Houses, To send to, or receive Managers for France, to treat separately of a Peace, without the Knowledge or Consent of our Allies.

By whose Advice the imperial Minister Count Gallas was rudely dismiss the Court, for opposing those separate Negotiations, contrary, not only to the Grand Alliance, but to the Queen's particular Assurances to his Master.

By whose Advice, His present Majesty's Memorial, delivered by his Minister the Baron de Bothmar, against those Clandestine and separate Negotiations, was not only disregarded, but called a Libel, and the said Minister affronted.

By whose Advice and Management, her Majesty was prevail'd upon, first to come to a Cessation of Arms with our common Enemy, and after so surprizingly to withdraw her Troops from those of her Allies, which was attended with such dismal Consequences.

By whose Advice and Management, all that had been gain'd by a profusion of Blood and Treasure in a glorious and successful War, was thrown up just as we were siezing the Prize of our Conquest, and a freeborn People

People brought within View of Slavery.

By whose Advice and Management our Constitution was struck at, by creating Twelve new Lords at once to carry a Vote in the Upper House.

By whose Advice the Treaty with the Dutch for settling our common Barrier in the Netherlands, and making them Guarantees of the Protestant Succession, was enervated, and a new Treaty, which weaken'd both its Securities made in its room.

By whose Advice and Management we were mocked with the Assurances of being free from the Neighbouring Fortrefs of Dunkirk, when they knew the French King intended to make a new Harbour at Mar-dyke, as part of the equivalent for Demolishing the Harbour of Dunkirk.

By whose Advice and Management the best Branches of our Trade were given up for Chimera's, and the Ruin of the whole endanger'd by a vile Treaty of Commerce with France.

By whose Advice that senseless and unaccountable Expedition to Canada was undertaken, and her Majesty, contrary to her Proclamations publish'd in New England, for encouraging that Expedition, allowed the French to keep their Interest in Canada, to sell that in Newfoundland, and

and to settle on Cape Breton, to the great detriment of our Fishing Trade, and to the manifest Danger of all our Plantations in North America.

By whose Advice it was that the Confederates were refused to be invited to be Guarantees of the Protestant Succession, tho' Her Majesty had promised it in her Answer to the Address of both Houses in the Year 1708.

By whose Advice his Electoral Highness, the Electoral Prince, now Prince of Wales, was denied the Liberty to take his Place in Parliament, when the Presence of one of the Illustrious Family of Hanover, was so absolutely necessary to quiet the Minds of the People, and to secure us from the just apprehensions we had of Danger from the Pretender.

By whose Advice the then Electors Minister, the Baron Schutz was forbid the Court, because he demanded a Writ for the Prince.

By whose Advice, the Pretender's Agent, Sir Patrick Lawless, was entertain'd and care/s'd at Court at the same Time, and honourably conveyed beyond Sea, when it was complain'd of in Parliament.

By whose Advice and Managament our Holy Church was in Danger of being given

up to Popery, our Civil Rights to Tyranny,
and the Way paved for the Pretender.

By whose Advice it was that the Jacobites
in Scotland, were Arm'd and kept in Pay,
and that Levies of Men for the Pretender
in Great-Britain and Ireland, were so long
connived at.

By whose Management the Debts of the
Nation encreased more after the Conclusion
of the Peace, than they had done in any
time during the War.

By whose specious Pretences, and dark
Scenes of Roguery, the Nation, and even
the Queen and Dutch were kept in Igno-
rance, what was doing, and were told, we
were making a safe, honourable, and ad-
vantagous Peace; which was no sooner fi-
nish'd, but we found our selves in worse
Circumstances than at the beginning of the
War: Which produced these Words from a
Noble P—r of their Side, in the House;
That he trusted to their Words along
while, but now found himself deceiv'd;
and that they had made a ruinous and
hazardous Treaty, destructive to the
Honour and Interest of their Country.

By whose cursed Intrigues, the Queen
came to declare herself of the same Senti-
ments; and lay'd her Death at their abo-
minable Doors. Not a Man among them,
one

one excepted, that had Brains enough to make a Consul of.

Now Gentlemen, you who respect the Chevalier, and a French Interest, d'ye not think it hard that these Men should be call'd in question after such worthy and glorious Exploits ? Is not the Folly and Impertinence of *Impeaching them* plainly proved ; or in your Sense, can there be any just or *lawful* Grounds for such *Accusations* ?

I'll warrant you will answer in their Favour, and that there are others deserve to be made Examples on more than they, *viz.* Those who maliciously and whiggishly withstood all these Inconveniencies and Mischiefs to their Country in Parliament, and by their bold and steadfast Conduct, constantly laid such Rubs in the Way, as prevented the Execution of their Designs, till it pleased God to save the Nation by the Accession of his present Majesty to the Throne ; who to shew how he resented their Proceedings, put himself into their Hands, as the only People he thought worthy to be trusted with the safety of his Person, or the Religion and Liberties of their Country.

Those

Those who have set their Hearts so against Popery, the Pretender, and a *French* Interest, that they think their lives too little to be hazarded, in Defence of their Country, against such cursed and dangerous Consequences, and would willingly throw their Estates, Wives, and Children into the Scale, to preserve the Balance from turning that Way.

Those who have distinguished themselves so to our Allies, as leaves Hopes of retrieving the Nation from that eternal Ignominy the late MANAGERS had drawn upon it, by their treacherous and abusive Conduct to Crown'd Heads, and Neighbouring States in Alliances with us, insomuch that on a sudden, the Name of a *Briton*, ever Honoured and Respected before, grew into Scandal and Contempt in all foreign Countries; and above all, was the Jest of the *French*, who sneered us in the most gross and insolent Manner, whilst they were all the while making their Markets of us, and imposing on us at Pleasure, thro' the shallow and servile Conduct of those who had list'd themselves their Creatures; who had neither Policy enough to foresee, Courage enough to withstand if they had seen, nor Honesty enough to be concern'd at what was doing.

Those who not only give us Hopes of retrieving our good Name Abroad, but likewise of restoring a due Confidence and Harmony betwixt us and our Allies, so necessary for our common Safety. Those by whose Advice his Majesty has already demanded the

French King to explain himself in relation to *Mardyke*, and 'tis to be hoped will put a stop to the dangerous Progress that is made there, as well as to other Articles of the late Peace, that are like to be destructive to our Trade and Welfare.

By whose Advice, His Majesty is inspired to make that glorious Stand for the Liberties of *Europe*, in opposing the Ambitious and Violent Designs of a certain Northern Prince, concerted with Infidels to be carried on among Christians, from the fatal Consequences of which, no humane Means could possibly have delivered these Kingdoms, but the Death of the late Queen; wherein the Share we should have had, tho' it had come last, would have fallen heaviest; for it is impossible that any thing should be shaped out well for us, that was beaten on *French* Anvils.

By whose Advice, His Majesty is indefatigably labouring to Cement the Grand Alliance, which by the Intrigues of Enemies Abroad, and Villains at Home, is broken and disjointed in such a Manner, as seemed almost impossible to collect again; and yet if not done, the Safety of *Britain* is at Stake: But which, to our unspeakable Comfort, he may promise himself the better Assurance of, from the Choice of the present Parliament, an Article as much listen'd to by our Friends, as it is dreaded by our Enemies.

By whose Advice, His Majesty has taken all the necessary Precautions that are like to bring such Villains to Justice, who sold and betrayed their Country to all the Inconveniences

are opened. Your House is on Fire, and it breaks out in several Places, and if your Severity, the only Way left, for they will be Wheedled no more, shall force the People to their own Defence, you may accompany your King back to *Hanover*, if you get leave. My Lord, 'tis the best Advice you can give him before the Storm grows too high, and no Subject is more concern'd than your self. Your King sees, he has not the Hearts of the People, and that it was a Faction only called him in, contrary to the Bent and Disposition of the Nation. What then can he expect, but a Crown of Thorns, a miserable Life, and perhaps a fatal End. He may now Retreat with Honour, and by doing Justice to the Injured, he may make himself a Blessing to *Britain*, by restoring her to her Constitution, Peace and Settlement, &c.

What an excellent Model might be hewn out of this Quarry of Treason, to bear an Inscription in Gold Characters.

That *Britain* being weary of its Religion and antient Liberties, did in, or about the Year 1715, resign herself up to Popery, Slavery, and Arbitrary Power:

And this not by Force, but purely out of Conscience; because they had been convinc'd Six and Twenty Years before, That it was safer living under a Popish, than under a Protestant Prince; and that Imprisoning and Trying our Bishops, Scourging and Silencing the
the

the Clergy, Modelling our Liberties, and Erecting *Irish Popish Armies*, was only a Jest to make us the more in Love with Fetters; and to learn this Lesson the better, at present, we are to begin and read Things backward. *By the Torrent of the Peoples Inclination*, is to be understood, the inspired Frenzy of an Ignorant Mob; and now *their Eyes are opened*, their being stark Blind; *Their own Defence*, downright Rebellion; and *by the Faction*, the Patriots and Sayers of the Nation.

And what is all this owing to but a Crew of turbulent, Seditious Black-coats (never quiet in any Reign) that are the Authors of this Spirit in the People, who are as great Politicians as those they preach to, and as fit to talk of Matters of Government; despised by the Wisest of their own Party at the time they are doing their Journey-work, and drudging in the beaten Road of Scandal and Treason. Let all the World be silent of their Vices, I will proclaim them the vilest part of Mankind, that to disgrace the Sacred *Habit*, undergo the Character of Tools and Parasites: But, thank God, we have some Good Ones; for whose sakes, 'tis to be hoped, God Almighty will spare the rest, whatever becomes of the Souls of their poor Congregations.

I beg your Pardon, Gentlemen, for 'tis to you the Friends of the Chevalier, I address my SELF, That I am obliged to be thus free with Men who are so well dispos'd to serve the Cause of your Master, and to whose

Doctrines

Doctrines and Management he owes more, than to the Disposition of all the People of *Britain* besides, whom they are every Day Spiriting up to Rebellion; but will take all the Care imaginable of being Hang'd for it themselves: And, if ever any of their Hearers are, all the Comfort they will find, will be two Shruggs and an Absolution to carry them thro' *thick and thin*, to their Journeys End in the other World, when the Executioner has Sign'd their Passports in this.

I would not say so much of this, but that it is somewhat in the Way of vindicating the late Ministry; for if the Cheveliers Interest was thus vigorously carrying on from the Pulpit, whence Treason and Rebellion are always best heard, by being cover'd under the Sanctity of Religion; believe me it will be no mean Excuse for these Gentlemens entring so early into his Service.

But I will strain a Point yet farther for them, and prove that they were in Honour and Justice oblig'd to make Peace, as well for the Safety of *Britain*, as the Interest of all the Allies. We cannot forget, that in the Year of their Exaltation, and which, I pray Heaven, may never be forgot, viz. [One Thousand Seven hundred and Ten.] The *French* offer'd to deliver us up *Spain* and the *Indies*; *Strasburgh*, *Alsace*, and the Lord knows what besides: But it being our Misfortune that Year, to take several Important Places in *Flanders*, to rout the Enemy in *Spain*, and gain some other Advantages, We were to account backwards for it to the Enemy it seems;

seems ; and the very next Spring, were to bait *Spain* and the *Indies*, in Satisfaction for our presuming to March to *Madrid* ; *Strasbourg* and *Alsace*, for King *Charles's* beating them at *Almenara*, and *Sarogossa* ; and *Conde*, *Maubeuge*, and some other Places in the *Netherlands*, for daring to take *Donay*, *Bethune*, *St. Venant*, *Aire*, and raising Contributions in the Heart of *Picardy*.

By this Management, if we had gone on Conquering at that Rate another Year, and the Enemy had claim'd their Debentures upon Us, we should soon have given the whole Confederate Dominions away in Equivalents. For which Reason, the next Campaign, we were more sparing of our Conquests, and took care only to take one small Town. *Bouchain* ; but the Enemy rising in their Demands, made us give for it back again, *Donay*, *Aire*, and all we had taken in *Flanders* the Year before.

The Year following therefore, they sent a General of their own, not only with strict Orders to do *nothing*, but to take Care that the Enemy might do *something*. This happen'd, and the Advantage fell on our Side, we were presently put into Possession of *Dunkirk* : But fearing, I suppose, to trust to these Uncertainties, that we should have the good Fortune to have our Allies always beaten, they e'en put an End to the War for fear of more Danger.

Now to say that they deserve to be Hang'd for this, and to talk of Impeachments, and I know not what, is the hardest Case in Nature.

tune. For my part, I am so far from thinking they merit any such treatment, that I would freely consent to have the Manufacture of Hemp suspended in their Favour; for as far as I know, if we had carried the War on vigorously another Campaign, and march'd to *Paris*, as was the general Cry, the next Equivalent given, might have been *Britain* to the Pretender, by Way of Drawback.

There are other Arguments enough to be made use of in their Favour; one indeed, you Gentlemen, their half Brethren, may urge strenuously against them; That by their Luke-warmness, they lost an Opportunity to restore the Chevalier, which may never be in their Power again; and if the People of *Britain* are not Tools and Madmen, never will

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